

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 003607

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/19/2014

TAGS: [ASEC](#) [EPET](#) [IZ](#) [KU](#) [MARR](#) [MOPS](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#)

SUBJECT: MINDEF TELLS PDASD FLORY FUEL WILL CONTINUE TO
FLOW; SHARES CONCERNS ABOUT IRAQ'S NEIGHBORS

REF: KUWAIT 03465

Classified By: Ambassador Richard LeBaron for reasons 1.4 (a),
(b), and (d)

1. (C) SUMMARY AND COMMENT. Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah explained in an October 19 meeting with PDASD Flory and the Ambassador that the GOK request for a fuel contract (for fuel supply to the U.S. for use in Iraq) was simply an administrative issue and easily resolved. Jaber confirmed that there was no/no plan to cut off the fuel supply in support of OIF and that getting a number into the budget was all that was needed for transparency. Shaykh Jaber also raised concerns about the roles of Iran, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia, reporting that the latter two were supplying Iraq with armored vehicles. Shaykh Jaber reiterated that the GOK is only providing humanitarian assistance. The underlying theme in Shaykh Jaber's comments was GOK concern about Iraq's future military capabilities and what it means for Kuwait's security. END SUMMARY AND COMMENT

Iraq Issues: Fuel, U.S. Bases, and GOK-IIG Meetings

2. (C) In a meeting with PDASD for International Security Affairs, Peter Flory and Ambassador LeBaron, Defense Minister Shaykh Jaber spoke of the fuel issue (supply of Kuwaiti fuel for use by the U.S. forces in Iraq) in terms of transparency and accountability, stating that the problem is an administrative one that can be easily resolved. The solution is to assign a value so that the amount of fuel supplied could be fiscally measured. When asked by the Ambassador about the Coalition Forces move from Camp Doha to Arifjan, Shaykh Jaber replied the few problems that occurred were related to space and had already been resolved. Shaykh Jaber also asked for advice on his upcoming meetings with IIG officials. (Note: Minister of State for Amiri Diwan Affairs Shaykh Nasser told the Ambassador in a separate meeting that Iraq President Ghazi al-Yawer would visit Kuwait October 30 and November 1 en route to Bahrain. End Note.) Flory presented an overview of the latest security situation and an outlook for the period up to and including the elections.

Iran and Syria Unhelpful Neighbors to Iraq

3. (C) Shaykh Jaber also expressed GOK concern about the activities of Iraq's neighbors, specifically Iran and Syria. He spoke of his recent visit to Iran and said that GOI officials he met expressed concern about the U.S. mission in Iraq. He told them Iraq would have eventually used WMD against Iran and Saddam's ouster benefited them too. Flory pointed out that Iran was using a steady flow of money and arms in a bid to influence southern Iraqis while some in the Syrian leadership did not want the border to be better controlled and felt that the movement of insurgents into Iraq better suited their purpose.

Fire Trucks But No Armored Vehicles

4. (C) Shaykh Jaber surprised his audience by asking if they had information on Iraq's solicitation of light armored vehicles from Jordan and Saudi Arabia. He claimed Jordan had supplied some armored vehicles, but Saudi declined for the time being. He did not expound on the type or number of vehicles provided, but was firm in his belief that the Iraqis did have them. He restated Kuwait's intent to offer humanitarian assistance only and said the GOK recently sent several fire trucks to Iraq and was paying the salaries of many firemen.

5. (U) Baghdad: Minimize considered.

Visit Embassy Kuwait's Classified Website:
<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/nea/kuwait/>

You can also access this site through the
State Department's Classified SIPRNET website

LeBaron